

Glossary

ARMY.
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How to Speak “Army” – Military Acronyms

To simplify communications, the military uses many abbreviations and acronyms. For example, it is easier to say “RSC” than it is to say “Regional Support Command.” The following list of abbreviations, acronyms, and definitions will assist you in understanding the different military terms you might hear or see in print.

Accelerated Mobilization. Mobilization, which occurs at a rate faster than, programmed or planned. This type of mobilization requires units and members to enter active duty without reference to established schedules.

ACS - Army Community Service. A Family Support Center for the Army.

Active Components. The active duty forces of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

Active Duty. Full-time duty in active military services of the United States.

Active Installation. A base, post, fort, or station in continuous use by the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps.

ADSW - Active Duty, Special Work. A tour of full-time training duty (up to 179 days) done to complete a specific project.

ADT - Active Duty for Training. Any full-time duty for training purposes. It includes annual training, military school attendance, special projects, military conferences, and participation in training exercises.

Affiliation Program. National Guard units and Army Reserve units scheduled to deploy may be affiliated with an active component unit to improve their readiness.

AG - Adjutant General. Also known as the TAG (The Adjutant General) or the State Adjutant General. An individual, normally appointed by the governor of a State, who administers the military affairs of the State.

AGR - Active Guard/Reserve. These Guard members and Reservists are on full-time active duty solely to provide full-time support to the Reserve components. They assist in the training,

administration, maintenance, and operations of selected reserve units.

AIT - Advanced Individual Training. Special skill training given after successful completion of Basic Training.

Alert. Any form of communications used by a competent authority to notify National Guard or Reserve unit commanders that orders to active duty are pending.

Alternate Training (Split Training). A reserve program which allows soldiers to take Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training in two separate summers. In this way, the military obligation will not interfere with civilian schooling.

ANG - Air National Guard.

APFT - Army Physical Fitness Test.

ARNG - Army National Guard.

AR-PERSCOM - Army Reserve Personnel Command. Located in St. Louis, MO., the central managing agency for USAR members.

AT - Annual Training. The minimum period of Active Duty Training or Annual Field Training that a Reserve Member must perform every year to satisfy the Annual Training requirements. Annual Training can be done all at once or in increments of one or more days, depending on the mission (Reserve job) requirements.

ATA - Additional Training Assemblies. ATAs are meetings beyond normal assemblies designed specifically for training preparation.

AWOL - Absent Without Leave. To be away from the military without proper authorization.

BAH - Basic Allowance for Housing. Allowance given to the service member when he/she lives at home.

Battalion. A military unit organized with a headquarters and two or more companies.

BDU - Battle Dress Uniform. The camouflage working uniform (formerly called "fatigues").

CAR - Chief Army Reserve. The principal advisor on Army Reserve affairs at the Department of the Army and the appropriation director for Army Reserve funds.

CG - Commanding General. The general officer in charge of a unit.

Chain of Command. The organization within the unit that lists who works for whom. Everyone in the chain of command is tasked to help those below him/her in the unit and to care for their families.

Chain of Concern. The spouse equivalent of the chain of command. There is no formal authority, but if properly used, issues affecting the family can be brought to the chain of command's attention for appropriate action.

CHAMPVA. Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Veterans Administration.

Civil Affairs. A branch of the Army specializing in those aspects of civilian activities which affect military operations.

CO - Commanding Officer. The boss for whom the service member works. The CO is responsible for everything that happens or does not happen within the unit.

Commissary. Grocery store on an active installation where service members and families can purchase food, beverages, etc., at prices usually lower than in civilian stores. Reservists are issued a card for 24 visits per year.

Company. The basic administrative and tactical unit in the Army. A company is below a battalion and above a platoon.

Brigade – A military unit organized with a headquarters and two or more battalions.

BT - Basic Training. The training in basic military subjects given to all new enlisted personnel of the armed forces.

CONUS - Continental United States. (48 states and the District of Columbia).

CONUSA - Continental United States Army. Commands, supports, and supervises United States Army Reserve units in specified geographical areas. The CONUSA reports directly to Headquarters, U.S. Army Forces Command.

CSM - Command Sergeant Major.

D-Day. The day on which an operation begins or is due to begin. This may be the start of hostilities of any operation.

DCU - Desert Combat Uniform.

DEERS - Defense Eligibility Enrollment

Reporting System. DEERS maintains a list of all people including dependents that are authorized medical care or may use TRICARE.

Dependent (alternative term is family member). A legal term used for a person receiving all or a portion of necessary financial support from a service member. Authorized dependents include spouses, unremarried widows or widowers, unmarried children (including adopted children, stepchildren, and illegitimate children over the age of 21 if incapable of self-support due to a physical or mental incapacity), unmarried children between 21 and 23 who are attending college full-time, parents or parents-in-law who are dependent on the service member for more than one-half of their support, and unmarried illegitimate children (if actually dependent upon and acknowledged by the service member).

EER - Enlisted Evaluation Report. The written report of an enlisted service member's performance of duty.

ESGR- Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. A Department of Defense chartered National Committee created to educate employers about the importance and role of the Guard and Reserve. Its awards and programs help reduce employment conflicts.

ETA - Estimated Time of Arrival.

ETD – Estimated Time of Departure.

ETS - Expiration of Term of Service. The date that marks the end of a service member's military enlistment or commitment.

Family Care Plan. A formal, documented plan to ensure the care of family members while the service member is away.

Family Member. (See Dependent)

Family Support Center. A place on an active military installation that provides programs and services to improve the quality of life of military families on active duty.

Family Readiness Liaison (FRL). A unit member assigned to be the link between the volunteer Family Readiness Group and the unit.

Family Readiness Group (FRG). An officially sanctioned volunteer organization formed by a unit that provides information to and a support network for families and soldiers, especially during periods of separation.

First Sergeant. The term used for the senior enlisted member of some units. It is also a rank.

FTX - Field Training Exercise. An opportunity for a unit to practice away from the home.

Guardian. A person with legal authority to care for family members while the service member is away.

GOCOM - General Officer Command. A major unit commanded by a general officer.

Headquarters Company. Administrative and tactical element of a battalion or a larger unit. People from headquarters company are involved in administrative, intelligence, communications and other necessary activities.

HS - Home Station. The assigned permanent location or assembly point in peacetime of National Guard and Army Reserve units.

IADT - Initial Active Duty Training. The period when new service members complete their Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training.

IDT - Inactive Duty Training. Authorized training performed by a member of a Reserve Component not on active duty or Active Duty for Training. IDT is made up of regularly scheduled unit training assemblies, additional assemblies, and periods of appropriate duty or equivalent training.

IG - Inspector General. A person who may be able to help service members and families confidentially resolve problems if the chain of command cannot resolve the problem. An IG also inspects and reports on the readiness of units.

IMA - Individual Mobilization Augmentee. A specially qualified Reservist pre-assigned to a critical position in an organization.

IRR - Individual Ready Reserve. Members of the Ready Reserve that are not assigned to a Selected Reserve unit and are not on active duty.

JAG - Judge Advocate General. A military lawyer.

Leave. Military vacation time. For each month of active service, 2.5 days of leave are credited. Emergency leave is granted if a verified emergency requires the presence of the service member.

LES - Leave and Earnings Statement. A monthly report of pay received for military duty. If the member is on active duty for more than 30 days, a record of leave (vacation time) is also reported.

MCX - Marine Corps Exchange. See Base Exchange.

M-Day. The day the Secretary of Defense directs that mobilization begin, based on a decision by the President, the Congress, or both. All mobilization planning (alert, movement, transportation, and deployment or employment) is based on this date.

MOS - Military Occupational Specialty. A combination of numbers and letters that identify an Army, Army Guard, or Army Reserve member's specific military skill.

MS - Mobilization Station. The designated military installation (active, semi-active, or inactive) or mobilization center to which a Reserve component unit is moved for further processing, organizing, equipping, training and employment after mobilization.

MUTA - Multiple Unit Training Assembly. This term normally has a number with it, for example, MUTA-2. It signifies consecutive unit training assemblies that are four hours long. A MUTA-2 would be eight or more consecutive hours of training. A MUTA-4 would be two consecutive training days (a typical Army Reserve drill weekend).

NCO - Non-Commissioned Officer. An enlisted person with a minimum rank of Corporal or Sergeant.

NCOIC - Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge. The NCO responsible for a group of enlisted personnel.

NEX - Naval Exchange. See Base Exchange.

OER - Officer Evaluation Report. The written report of an officer's performance of duty.

OIC - Officer in Charge. The officer responsible for a group of soldiers.

Pay Grade. The rate that the member is paid. Enlisted is E1 through E9, and Officer is O1 through O10.

PCS - Permanent Change of Station.

Reassignment of military personnel from one permanent station to another. This includes the change from home to first station when called to active duty, or the change from last station to home in connection with retirement or relief from active duty. It also means a unit transfer from one permanent station to another.

POE - Port of Embarkation. An air or sea terminal where troops, units, military-sponsored personnel and materiel board and/or are loaded.

Presidential Call. Procedures by which the President brings all or a part of the National Guard or Reserve into the active Federal service.

PSRC - Presidential Selective Reserve Call-up.

PX - Post Exchange. See Base Exchange.

RC - Reserve Components. RC consist of the Army National Guard of the United States, the Air National Guard of the United States, the Army Reserve, Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air Force Reserve, and Coast Guard Reserve. In each Reserve Component, there are three categories: Ready Reserve, Standby Reserve and Retired Reserve.

Ready Reserve. Units and unit members of the Reserve Components liable for involuntary active duty in time of a war, a national emergency as declared by Congress, a national emergency declared by the President, or when otherwise authorized by law.

Retired Reserve. The Retired Reserve consists of those individuals placed on the Reserve Retired list by proper authority in accordance with law or regulations. If qualified, members of the Retired Reserve may be ordered to active duty involuntarily in time of war or national emergency declared by Congress or when otherwise authorized by law. This action is taken when the Secretary of the Army decides that adequate numbers of qualified individuals in the

required categories are not readily available in the Ready Reserve or inactive status in the Standby Reserve.

RSC – Regional Support Command. An Army Reserve command for a large geographic area, formerly an ARCOM.

RTU - Reinforcement Training Unit. A unit composed of personnel who take part in voluntary non-paid training and who provide training and mission support to Reserve and Active units. During a mobilization, all members of an RTU are eligible for assignments as members of the Individual Ready Reserve.

Selected Reserve. That portion of the Ready Reserve consisting of units required to participate in Inactive Duty Training and Annual Training in a pay status and as designated by the Secretary of the Army.

Separate Rations Allowance. An allowance given to the service member when he/she lives at home.

SGLI - Servicemen's Group Life Insurance. Up to \$250,000 worth of insurance coverage can be elected by the service member.

SI - Supporting Installation. An installation that provides support to off-post units and activities within a specific geographic area.

Split Unit. An element of a unit that is stationed at a different location from the main or headquarters portion of its parent unit. Typically, a platoon is split away from a company in thinly populated areas of the United States.

Sponsor. The dependent's husband, wife, parent, or guardian who is in the military.

Sponsorship Program. A service member who is assigned to welcome and help a new unit member and his or her family get adjusted and acquainted with other unit members. The two service members are usually of the same ranks and marital status.

Standby Reserve. Those units and members of the Reserve Components (other than ones in the

Ready Reserve or Retired Reserve) who are liable for active duty only after the Secretary of the Army determines that there are not enough of the required units or qualified individuals available in the Ready Reserve.

TDY - Temporary Duty. Duty performed at a location other than the home station.

Technician. A full-time civilian employee of the Guard or Reserve, normally a military member of the unit for which employed, but working full-time to provide day-to-day continuity of operations. Technicians provide support in the performance of functions that cannot be performed by unit personnel during the regularly scheduled training periods.

Thrift Savings Plan. Retirement savings program.

TPU - Troop Program Unit. A unit of the Army National Guard or Army Reserve organized to serve as such upon mobilization. The types of and numbers of units are based on the mobilization requirements of Department of the Army.

TriCare. Health care program for active duty and retired military personnel, their dependents and survivors.

UA - Unit Administrator. Civilian or military employees assigned to support Reserve units at the company or detachment level. Battalions and higher units have full-time skeleton staffs that include staff training assistants supervised by supervisory staff assistants.

UTA - Unit Training Assembly. An authorized, scheduled training assembly of not less than four hour's duration, including roll call and rest periods. One retirement point and one day's pay are authorized for each assigned, attached individual who satisfactorily completes the entire assembly. This type of assembly is mandatory for all Troop Program Units.

The United States Army. The United States Army includes the Regular Army, the National Guard of

the United States, and the Army Reserve. It also includes all persons appointed, enlisted, or inducted in these components, and all persons serving in the Army under call or conscription under any provision of law, including members of the National Guard of the States, Territories, and the District of Columbia, when in the service of the United States as a result of mobilization.

USAR - United States Army Reserve. Includes the Selected Reserve (units), the Individual Ready Reserve (individuals and IMAs), and the Retired Reserve.

USARC - United States Army Reserve Command.

United States Army Training Center. A non-service-school activity which conducts Basic Training for non prior service enlisted personnel and/or Advanced Individual Training given to personnel after Basic Combat Training.

VHA - Variable Housing Allowance. An allowance given which helps to offset the cost of housing in high-cost areas. Those authorized to receive VHA must be on active duty for more than 140 days and must not live in government quarters. The 140-day period is not required during contingency operations.

XO - Executive Officer. The next senior officer under the unit commander (like a vice president is to a president).